LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining ~~the state~~ a condition of degradation of bank notes wherein data of at least two different properties of the bank notes are evaluated, comprising linking the data of the at least two different properties of each bank note with each other, and deriving the ~~state~~ condition of degradation of the bank note from the linked data of the different properties.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the at least two different properties are linked by means of a linear combination.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein an average is determined for each of the different properties for a set of bank notes to determine the ~~state~~ condition of degradation of the set of bank notes for the particular different property.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein an average is determined for the linked properties for a set of bank notes to determine the overall ~~state~~ condition of degradation of the set of bank notes.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the different properties of the bank notes relate to soiling and/or spots and/or limpness and/or tears and/or adhesive tape and/or dog-ears and/or holes and/or missing parts of the bank notes.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for determining ~~the state~~ a condition of degradation of bank notes, comprising sensors for detecting data of at least two different properties of the bank notes, and a control device for determining the ~~state~~ condition of degradation of the bank notes from the data of the at least two different properties of the

4

bank notes, wherein the control device is arranged to link the data of the at least two different properties of each bank note with each other, and the control device is arranged to derive the ~~state~~ <u>condition of degradation</u> of the bank note from the linked data of the different properties.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the control device links the at least two different properties by means of a linear combination.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the different properties of the bank notes relate to soiling and/or spots and/or limpness and/or tears and/or adhesive tape and/or dog-ears and/or holes and/or missing parts of the bank notes.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the apparatus comprises a bank note processing machine.